

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2006, within the three-month period for reply extending to November 29, 2006.

5 Claims 4, 16- 19, and 28 were canceled. Claim 1 was amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Claim 20 was amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 28, and claim 35 was amended to include allowable subject matter similar to what was allowed in claims 4 and 28. Accordingly, all independent claims include the subject matter indicated to be allowable, and the dependent claims all directly
10 or indirectly depend from the amended independent claims.

It is expressly noted that acceptance of the allowed subject matter and cancellation of the rejected claims is not to be construed as agreement by the Applicant regarding the rejection presented by the Office. In essence, the Applicants have opted to expedite prosecution of the allowed subject matter and leave the option open for filing a
15 continuation application to represent the cancelled claims or claims of similar scope at a later time, if so desired.

The Applicants therefore submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is requested.


If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the
20 Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6903.

If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P445). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

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Respectfully submitted,
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